

## An Optimistic View

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## AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW.

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Society has passed through so many changes in its progress from primitive conditions to the civilization of today, changes that appeared unfathomable and threatening when they began, but which invariably brought blessings to the race, that it might be supposed we would look to the future with some degree of confidence. We must know from the history of the past that constant change is the order of life, and we have every reason to believe that every change which works itself slowly and inevitably out by natural law will operate beneficently.

When stage coaches were introduced into England 300 years ago they were considered a menace to society. It was vehemently argued that this mode of conveyance would be fatal to the breed of horses, and to the noble art of horsemanship; that transportation by inland waters would be idle; that saddlers and spurriers would be ruined; that the numerous inns where mounted travelers had been in the habit of stopping would be ruined and no longer pay rent, etc., etc. So it was gravely proposed that no public coach should be permitted to have over four horses or to travel more than thirty miles in a day. It was hoped that with these regulations all but the sick and the lame would return to traveling by horseback. Petitions embodying these views were presented to the king from numerous cities and villages.

And so every innovation brings to the front those who are sure that unless we do something promptly to stop the natural trend of things, society will soon be in a deplorable state. Just now department stores and trusts are the cause of this perennial alarm. In due time when it appears that three-fourths of these organizations, with their scattered and out-of-date establishments, cannot compete with new rivals and that the remaining one-fourth are cheapening the necessities of life, something else, more alarming will appear. The plan on which the universe was constructed and by which it

is operating seems to have been adequate up to this time, despite the criticisms and misgivings that one generation after another has been constrained to utter. There is no substantial reason to suppose that the concern has yet outgrown the Creator's plan or system of management.—*Hon. Geo. E. Roberts, in Fort Dodge Messenger, April 4, 1899.*

### FAIRFIELD (JEFFERSON CO.) MARKET.

Pork, \$4.00 per 100 lbs.  
 Beef, 4 to 8 cents per lb.  
 Lard, 7 cents per pound.  
 Tallow, 12 cents per lb.  
 Flour, \$7.00 per bbl., and \$3.50 per 100 lbs.  
 Buckwheat flour, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.  
 Corn, 20 cents per bushel.  
 Oats, 17 cents per bushel.  
 Corn meal, 30 cents per bushel.  
 Potatoes, 50 cents per bushel—new.  
 White beans, 50 cents per bushel—dull.  
 Turnips, 25 cents per bushel.  
 Flax seed, 90 cents per bushel.  
 Timothy seed, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per bushel.  
 Rye flour, \$2.00 per 100 lbs.  
 Cheese, 9 and 10 cents per lb.  
 Butter, 10 cents per lb.  
 Dry Hides, 12 cents per lb.  
 Eggs, 5 cents per dozen.  
 Hay, \$5.00 per ton.  
 Wood, \$2.00 per cord.  
 Coal, 10 cents per bushel.  
 Chickens, \$1.00 per dozen.  
 Onions, 25 cents per bushel.

—*Fairfield (Iowa) Ledger, Aug. 10, 1854.*

THE MINOR ANTIQUITIES of the generation immediately preceding ours, are becoming rare, as compared with those of remote ages, because nobody thinks it worth while to preserve them. It is almost as easy to get a personal memento of Priam or Nimrod as it is to get a harpsicord or a spinning wheel, a tinder box or a scratchback. An Egyptian wig is attainable, a wig of the Georgian era is hardly so, much less a tie of the Regency. So it is with the scenes of common life a century or two ago. They are being lost because they were familiar.—*Prof. Goldwin Smith.*

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